

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

1959
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer
of Health

G L. BROCKLEHURST, M.D. (Lond.), B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND HOUSING MANAGER

C. J. CLARK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR :

1959

G.L. BROCKLEHURST, M.D. (Lond.). B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor A.E. Tugwood J.P.

Committees concerned with matters of Public Health

Public Health and Housing Committee

(Public Health Committee and Housing
Committee amalgamated in 1953.)

Highways Committee

(Responsible for public cleansing,
refuse disposal and sewage disposal).

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Councillor Mrs. G. E. Fortune (Chairman)

Councillor R. V. Rice (Vice-Chairman)

The Chairman of the Council.

Councillor H. R. Cole

" F. W. Gates.

" T. A. Greer.

" J. B. Nightingale.

" E. Roughley O.B.E.

" Mrs. P. A. Sandercock.

" R. V. Sidnell

" R. Stanley.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF - 1959.

Medical Officer of Health
and Principal Medical
Officer, Area No. 2. K.C.C.

G. L. Brocklehurst, M.D. (Lond).
B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Official Address :

34, Grosvenor Place, Margate.
'phone Thanet 22201.

Senior Public Health Inspector C.J. Clark, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Duties :

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector.

Housing Management.

Shops Acts Inspector.

Public Lighting and Petroleum Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector W.F. Weller, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Duties :

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector.

Shops Act Inspector.

Clerical Staff :) Miss P. K. Flight.
) Miss B. L. Hopkins.

General Assistant and Rodent Operator : R. Watson.

KENT COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES STAFF - 1959

in the Herne Bay Urban District

Health Visitor, School Nurse
and Infant Life Protection
Officer :

Miss D.A. Tremble, S.R.N.,
S.C.M., H.V.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor : Miss M. Brangan, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
Cert.R.S.I., H.V.

Midwife : Mrs. H. Hall, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Home Nurses : Mrs. D.M. Thompson, S.R.N.,
S.C.M., Q.N., R.F.N.
Mrs. V.F. Ray, S.R.N.
Miss O. Sanders, S.R.N., S.F.N.,
Q.N.
Miss C. Dory, S.R.N.

Domestic Help Area Organizer: Mrs. A. Kingston.

District Officer : H.T. Suckling.

Assistant District Officer : D.H. Bartlett.

Registrar of Births and Deaths : D.S. Ryeland.

School Enquiry Officer : K.W. Ford.

Other Staff : South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

Chest Physician and Adviser
on After-care of Tuberculosis : Owen Clarke, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Council Offices,
Herne Bay.

June, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my seventeenth Annual Report of the health of Herne Bay for the year 1959, with which is included the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics of the urban district show an increase in the population (as estimated by the Registrar General) of some 1,290 people. A decrease in the Birth Rate is shown, 11.05 in 1959 as compared with 14.17 in 1958. The total number of births fell from 207 in 1958 to 191 in 1959. The Death Rate increased from 10.8 in 1958 to 13.5 in 1959. This can be accounted for by elderly retired people taking up residence in the town, and the tendency for younger people to leave the area to take up work in industrial areas of the country. For the second time since statistics have been recorded, there were no deaths of infants under the age of one year, in relation to some 191 births. This is indeed remarkable evidence of the improvement in social and preventive medicine services during the present century.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Apart from an epidemic of Measles, there was little infection.

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred.

HOUSING.

The Council during the year, made further progress with the five year programme of slum clearance. Details are given by the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

The Health Services provided in the town, through the

National Health Service Act, are set out in the report in some detail; they are available to all the inhabitants, and they are adequate.

Mention should again be made of much good work carried out in the District during the year by members of the staff of the Health Services operated by the County Council, with particular reference to the many and varied duties performed by Health Visitors, Midwives, Home Nurses, Children's Welfare Officers, District Officers, Domestic and Home Helpers, etc., and also the various voluntary organisations in the town such as the W.V.C., Old People's Welfare Committee, the British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association and others. These workers do much for the comfort and well-being of the inhabitants of the town, and their work is greatly appreciated by the people concerned.

GENERAL.

In making a general survey of the year's work, I would say that the health of the people of the town was satisfactory during the twelve months.

The work of the Health Department at the present time falls into two main categories - "The Environmental Health Services" and "The Personal Health Services".

Environmental Services:- These services, in addition to housing, include the inspection and remedying of defects in homes, shops, food premises and factories, and in the surrounding environment, which is likely to be a danger and hazard to health; the supervision of food supplied; the mitigation of smoke nuisance the control of epidemic disease; the giving of advice and guidance to householders and the owners of business premises. It is now clearly understood that both historically and in practice the public health services rest upon a sound and effective basic foundation of environmental hygiene, and the members of the staffs of the public health departments must always maintain a firm grasp of the environmental needs of the communities with whose welfare they are concerned.

Personal Health Services:- This section of public health work includes the work of the clinics - maternal and child welfare, school, dental, tuberculosis, home nursing, the care of old people, the control of infectious diseases, and the aftercare of the deaf, blind, crippled and mentally disturbed.

Whilst the personal health services are largely under

the control of the County Council as the local Health Authority, the local Public Health Department is a strong link between the local public and the County Authority; the local voluntary organisations carry out much valuable work, and they in turn form another strong link in the 'Public Health Relations Service'; chiefly in assisting those who have become handicapped by age and infirmity.

The problem of the welfare, housing and care of lonely elderly people is not only a local, but a national problem. There are many aspects in relation to this problem which is presented to us by an ageing population - family relationships, social responsibilities, economic factors and medical considerations.

All round us we see men and women growing old while retaining their normal vigour and interest in life and work; then in sharp contrast, those less fortunate who, through various causes, have come to need the service of others; this matter concerns every member of the community, for all are at different stages of 'growing old'.

Recently new legislation has been put in force, the Clean Air Act, a Litter Act and a byelaw with regard to the Fouling of Footways by dogs. The two latter items were brought into force in an endeavour to persuade residents to help to keep clean and tidy the footways, parks, gardens, beaches, etc. In a public health conscious country, this should not have been necessary, especially in a seaside resort. If everyone uses the litter bins, of which there is a plentiful supply, and every dog owner sees that their dogs are properly trained, this will be an advantage to the town, both from an aesthetic and a public health point of view.

It is through personal contact with the public, which is such an integral part of a public health department, that a true "Public Relations" service has been built up and is being maintained by the present day health departments of local government.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation for their support and encouragement during the year.

My thanks are also due to all members of the Health Department for the loyal and efficient way in which they have carried out their duties; to my colleagues in other Departments; to the Staffs of the Kent County Health Services and

the Regional Hospital Board Services covering the Herne Bay District, and to the Medical Practitioners practising in the area, for their willing co-operation and assistance at all times in the public health work of our town.

I have the honour to be Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G.L. Brocklehurst,

Medical Officer of Health and Principal
Medical Officer of Health, Area No. 2. K.C.C.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (including inland water - 8,566 acres)
tidal water - 323 acres) 8,889.

Population, 1959 (Registrar General -
mid year) 19,700.

* Rateable Value (1st April, 1960) £336,616.

* Estimated sum represented by the 1d. rate £1,370.

Note: * Figures shown are for 1960.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M	F		<u>Herne Bay U.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live Births	191	99	92	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid- 1959	9.7	
				* Adjusted Birth Rate	11.05	16.5
Stillbirths	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	25.5	20.5
Total live and stillbirths :					196	-
Infant Deaths :					Nil	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:						
	Total				Nil	23.0
	Legitimate				Nil	
	Illegitimate				Nil	
Neo-Natal (First four weeks) Rate per 1,000 live births					Nil.	16.2. (1958)
Illegitimate live births <u>per cent</u> of total live births :					6.28%	

Maternal Deaths (including Abortion) 1

<u>Deaths</u>	Total	M	F		<u>Herne Bay U.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
	402	185	217	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid- 1959	20.4	
				* Adjusted Death Rate	13.5	11.6

* The figures shown as "adjusted Birth Rate" and "adjusted Death Rate" are corrected by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1959.

CAUSES.	Males	Females
	185	217
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	25	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemic	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	30	39
18. Coronary disease, angina	41	30
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	5
20. Other heart disease	19	60
21. Other circulatory diseases	7	6
22. Influenza	1	3
23. Pneumonia	11	15
24. Bronchitis	14	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Herne Bay is a seaside holiday resort on the northern coast of Kent, at the mouth of the Thames Estuary. Bounded on the north side by the north sea, it is almost surrounded by the rural villages of the Bridge-Blean Rural District: from the east and west it lies between the Whitstable Urban District and Birchington in the Borough of Margate, and the south side of the town is approximately eight miles from the City of Canterbury.

The town is essentially a holiday resort, and a large percentage of the population is engaged in catering for the needs of the visitors who take holidays there during the summer months, when the population figure is almost double that of the winter period.

There is a large residential area in the Urban District and as the town is within easy reach of London, many of the inhabitants travel each day to their employment in the City. The town has grown appreciably during recent years, and this is reflected in the Registrar General's mid year estimate. It is considered that electrification of the railway system (completed in June, 1959) will attract many more residents and visitors to the town.

In addition to the town's education and utility services (Schools, electricity, gas, water, fire, transport, local government and postal services), there are a number of professional and commercial establishments and light industrial undertakings which provide employment for a good percentage of workers. Agricultural employment is provided in the rural area. It is the Council's policy to attract suitable light industry to the town to establish a more balanced community.

The Kent County Council is the Education Authority for the Urban District, and there are four County Primary and Junior Schools, and one County Modern School under this Authority. There is also a number of boarding and day schools and convalescent and children's homes, as well as residential and day nurseries; holiday homes and homes for old people and the chronic sick; also the Cripplecraft Home for disabled people; Herne Bay Hospital and Herne Hospital at Herne Common, where a number of nursing and domestic workers are employed.

Meteorology.

The Council maintain a meteorological station on the Sea Front and daily weather readings are transmitted to the Air Ministry. The following are the readings for the year 1959 :

Period	Sunshine Hours:	Rainfall Inches
1959	1951.4	20.94
Monthly Mean:	162.6	1.74
Daily Average	5.34	.05

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

All pathological and bacteriological work for the Urban District is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, Maidstone, free of charge. This is one of a chain of laboratories established by the Ministry of Health throughout the country.

Services provided by the Kent County Council under the N.H.S.A.

Health Visitors, School Nurse and Infant Life Protection Officer.

The health visiting, school nursing and infant life protection services are carried out by the County Council, who provide the staff. During 1959 these duties were carried out by Miss D. A. Tremble.

The Tuberculosis health visiting is carried out by Miss M. Brangan.

Nursing in the Home.

The Kent County Council provide a free Home Nursing Service, and apart from cases of emergency and accident, a patient may obtain the services of a home nurse if requested by the medical practitioner in attendance. There are 4 such nurses in this district.

Domicilliary Midwifery.

A comprehensive service is available, and one midwife is employed.

Domestic Help Service.

Domestic help is obtainable for the sick and aged and infirm, and in cases of urgent need; the scheme is operated from the Kent County Council's clinic, in King's Road, under the supervision of the Area Organizer, Mrs. A. Kingston.

District Office.

The Kent County Council have established a District Office at Whitstable, where enquiries in the first place can be made with regard to the County Council Health Services.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Clinics continued to be held regularly throughout the year at the Kent County Council's Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay, (Tuberculosis Dispensary in Cavendish Road). The following table gives the days and times when the various sessions are held :

CLINICS.	SESSIONS:	
	Days	Times
<u>Maternity Clinics:</u> <u>Ante-Natal Clinics</u>	Fridays	2 - 4 p.m.
<u>Child Welfare Clinic</u> (Vaccination against Small-pox by appointment at this Clinic). The Health Centre, King's Road.	Mondays & Thursdays.	Afternoons
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunization Clinic	Held monthly by the Medical Officer of Health, usually on middle Tuesday in month.	
B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic	Held monthly by Chest Physician at times arranged with Tuberculosis Health Visitor.	

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Poliomyelitis Vaccination Clinic	Held by arrangements made by Medical Officer of Health, County Hall, Maidstone.
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School Health Service.

Medical and dental treatment is provided by the County Council as follows :

Minor Ailments Clinics	Days and Attendance of Medical Officer.
The Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay.	Monday and Wednesdays of each week, and 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings in each month.
The Masonic Hall, Whitstable.	Every Saturday morning.

Specialist School Clinics.

Attendance at these County Council Clinics is by appointment only, application for treatment being made to the County Medical Officer :

Clinics	Address of Centres
Child Guidance	51, London Road, Canterbury.
Ophthalmic	The Health Centre, King's Rd. and Kent and Canterbury Hosp.
Orthopaedic	Kent and Canterbury Hospital.
Speech Defects	County Clinic, 94, Whitstable Road, Canterbury.

Dental Clinic.

Patients receive attention at the Dental Clinic, Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay, by appointment on Tuesday mornings and afternoons.

Clinic Services provided through the Hospital Service:

The following Clinics are administered by the Hospital Management Committee of the Regional Hospital Board:

Clinic	Sessions	
	Days	Times
<u>Tuberculosis Dispensaries:</u> K.C.C. Chest Clinic, Cavendish Road, Herne Bay.	Tuesdays	10. 0.a.m. to 12.30.p.m.
Queen Victoria Hospital, Herne Bay. Refills.	Tuesdays	1.45.p.m.
<u>Venereal Diseases Clinic</u> Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.	(Women) Tuesdays	2.00.p.m. to 3.00.p.m.
	(Men) Tuesdays	3.00.p.m. to 4.00.p.m.

Hospitals.

The hospitals serving the Urban District are operated by the Local Hospital Management Committee, which is under the control of the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals serving the Urban District are :

Isolation Hospital :

Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

General Hospitals :

Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
Herne Bay Memorial Hospital.
Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital.
Herne Hospital.
Nunnery Fields Hospital, Canterbury (for old people).

The following children's convalescent home is also administered by the Hospital Management Committee :

Crole Wyndham Convalescent Home for Children.

Smallpox Hospital Accommodation.

The Regional Hospital Board have a scheme in operation whereby smallpox patients may be admitted to the River Hospitals, (Long Reach) Dartford, Kent. No cases notified.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

Sections 187 to 194, Public Health Act, 1936.

Only one nursing home was operating during 1959, and the following table gives particulars of the number of beds available.

Year 1959	No. of Homes	No. of beds provided for		Totals
		Maternity	Others	
Homes first registered during the year	-	-	-	-
Homes on register at the end of year	1	-	15	15

Convalescent Homes, Holiday Homes, etc.

There are 4 convalescent homes in the Urban District with accommodation for some 280 patients.

There are also 4 holiday homes, accommodating approximately 120 women and children.

"Batesholme" Grand Drive, accommodates 20 children under the care of the K.C.C.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

During the year it was necessary to arrange for the burial of 2 persons under Section 50 of the above Act. The cost of one burial was subsequently recovered.

Public Mortuary.

The Council own an up-to-date public mortuary comprising a post-mortem room with refrigeration facilities for four bodies, also a panelled chapel and viewing room, which has independent access. Records are kept of all bodies admitted and of post-mortem examinations. Mr. Jempson continues to maintain an attractive garden at the mortuary entrance. This he does as a voluntary effort in his retirement.

During the year 45 bodies were admitted, and upon most of these post mortem examinations were held.

Schools.

There are 3 independent Boarding Schools, and 2 independent Day Schools in the Urban District, with accommodation for some 600 pupils.

In addition there are 4 County Primary and Junior Schools, and 1 County Modern School. These are attended by 1,794 pupils.

The County Modern School at Greenhill, and the Hampton Junior and Infants School, have been built during recent years. Herne Church of England School, which is attended by 156 pupils, has been extended and improved.

Examination of Sea Water.

During May and June, samples of sea water were taken by the Public Health Inspector, from 13 points on the foreshore. These samples were taken at various states of the tide, and were subsequently delivered at the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone, for bacteriological examination.

A total of 78 samples were examined, and the results were re-assuring. Dr. Walker, the Pathologist who examined the samples, reported that none contained salmonella organisms, and there was no evidence to support the possibility of Poliomyelitis being attributable to sea bathing.

The local investigation failed to produce any evidence of active danger to health which might arise from sea bathing. This conclusion is consistent with the report of the General Medical Council in December, 1959.

Food Poisoning - Sturry School.

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred at Sturry School, during June, which is attended by 9 local children. These children were visited at their homes, and 6 of them were affected.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is a summary of the incidence of infectious diseases during the year, with an analysis of cases under age groups.

DISEASES	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14	11	-
Whooping Cough	20	-	-
Measles	286	-	-
Chickenpox	19	-	-
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.	13	13	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-
Polioomyelitis	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	5	-	-
T O T A L S	363	25	-

DISEASES	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 and over.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	1	1	8	4	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	1	3	12	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	1	33	33	26	42	140	10	1	1	1	1
Chickenpox	1	1	1	-	2	9	2	2	1	1	1
Polioomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4

The above table gives the age incidence of the various notifiable diseases which occurred during the year.

The following table shows the incidence of measles for the last 5 years :

YEAR	Children 1 - 5 Years	Children 5 -15 Years	Adults	TOTALS
1955	128	125	4	257
1956	2	6	1	9
1957	118	164	2	284
1958	3	5	-	8
1959	135	150	1	286

The following table shows the incidence of chickenpox for the last 5 years :

YEAR	Children 1 - 5 Years	Children 5 -15 Years	Adults	TOTALS
1955	35	96	6	137
1956	14	31	2	47
1957	59	152	12	223
1958	6	16	1	23
1959	5	13	1	19

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New cases and mortality during the year 1959

Age Periods	NEW CASES:				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-

Inward and Outward Transfers Recoveries, etc.	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Inward transfers from other Areas	3	1	-	1
Outward transfers to other Areas	4	3	1	-
Restored to Register on return to district	1	1	-	-
Reported to be "Recovered"	4	9	1	1
Removed from Register upon declining medical treatment	-	-	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1959 was :

Type of Case:	Male	Female	TOTALS
Pulmonary	77	59	136
Non-Pulmonary	15	15	30
TOTALS:	92	74	166

Prevention of Tuberculosis : Care and After-Care.

A scheme is operated jointly by the Kent County Council and the Kent Council of Social Service for the provision of care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. Through this scheme arrangements are made, where necessary, for assistance to be rendered in various ways, viz., the provision of shelters; extra meat and milk, the provision of beds, bedding and clothing.

Home visiting is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the area, who gives suitable advice to the patients.

Where there is need, help is given in solving housing problems, and assisting with removal expenses; the admission of patients to holiday homes is arranged, in the case of unemployment, endeavours are made to find suitable posts for patients who are fit for work; and materials are provided for recreational therapy.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 172.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. 1959.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1944)

Year of Birth	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1944 - 1959	12	149	153	144	36	123	141	123	122	153	154	119	145	109	15	1,698
1943 or earlier	209	106	132	98	193	100	66	87	95	8	-	-	-	-	-	1,094
																1,698

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1959.

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the Herne Bay Urban District who received injections against Poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1959 :

Year of Birth	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	Before 1943	Others	Totals
Given two injections	54	104	79	76	95	109	116	125	134	126	148	135	159	123	101	97	149	27	1,957
Given third injection	20	149	62	28	34	25	36	35	31	16	46	40	45	46	39	28	37	537	79
																			1,333

Immunisation and Vaccination

Set out below are the diphtheria immunisation, whooping-cough immunisation and smallpox vaccination figures for 1959

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination		Whooping-cough Immunisation
	Primary	Rein-forcing	Primary	Revac-cination	Primary.
1959	15	-	49	-	57
1958	94	1	65	-	96
1957	23	-	1	-	15
1956	3	-	-	-	5
1955	5	2	-	-	2
1954	-	26	-	-	3
1953	1	43	1	-	-
1952	-	9	1	-	2
1951	-	1	-	-	1
1950	-	2	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1947	-	2	-	-	-
1946	-	-	-	-	-
1945	-	-	-	-	-
Before 1945	-	-	7	6	1
Total	141	86	119	6	182

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occ. Pros ecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	78	34	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	87	36	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c): (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Nature of Work (1)						
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.; Cleaning and Washing.	30	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	31	-	-	-	-	-

R E P O R T

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

and

HOUSING MANAGER.

C.J. Clark, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Herne Bay.

June, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present my report for the year 1959, the twenty third year of my service at Herne Bay.

Housing, as always, occupies a large part of my report because it is a major activity of your Health and Housing Department.

The demand for Council accommodation, after easing, has become more acute again during recent years. The building of new accommodation by the Council has reduced, and fewer houses and flats have been given up by their tenants.

This decline in housing potential has been accompanied by a steady rise in the number of applicants on the "waiting list". This is disappointing because it implies a substantial waiting list for years ahead, whereas we had hoped that steady annual reduction would wear the waiting list down to a manageable figure. With the present annual building quota it would take 15 years to house all those upon the waiting list. However, this list is not static, and new applications outnumber deletions, even though the list is restricted to those who live or work at Herne Bay. In my report, I have ventured to make a few observations as to the cause of this progressive increase. In addition, I have no doubt that the demand for better housing is due in part to the rising standard of living. More people now have the means to pay the rent of separate accommodation, and a couple of rooms with parents is no longer acceptable to young people when they marry. If at first they are forced to accept such an arrangement they are eager to establish their own separate homes as soon as possible.

Before the war, because of low wages, it was the rule,

rather than the exception, for young people to share their parents home for many years, sometimes permanently. This unsatisfactory way of living is no longer an economic necessity.

Another factor which has stimulated demand for Council housing accommodation is the desirable type of flat the Council has constructed. To see one, is to want one; but need, and not desire, is the qualification for admission to the waiting list.

Tenants are making less use of the Rent Act, 1957, and during 1959 only one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair.

House owners however, have not forgotten the Act and during the year under review the Council housed five families who had been evicted by Court Orders made under the Rent Act.

The building of flats instead of houses continued in 1959, and in that year the first single bedroom flats were constructed by the Council. These are cheaper to build and they attract a subsidy of £10. per annum for 60 years. House building does not attract a subsidy except to rehouse tenants displaced from houses condemned as unfit for habitation.

An investigation into the extent of under-occupation of Council accommodation revealed that 94 houses and flats were under-occupied, some to a serious extent. It is the policy to persuade, and if necessary, to require tenants of under-occupied accommodation to transfer to something smaller and so release houses for applicants with young families who need them.

Further progress was made with the five year programme for clearance of unfit houses, and by December 1959 only seven houses remained to be dealt with to complete the 1955 - 60 programme. It was decided to defer consideration of any future programme until the autumn of 1960.

In the year under review requisitioning ended with the release of the last three premises.

Food Hygiene Codes of Practice for meat traders and for the transport of meat have been introduced by the appropriate Ministries. These are welcome as a means of establishing desirable standards. Hygiene by common consent

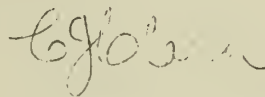
is more likely to succeed than hygiene imposed by legislation, although it has to be available in the final resort.

The last slaughter house ceased to be licensed at the end of 1959. This completed the closure of four unsatisfactory local slaughterhouses with no hardship or inconvenience to their owners, and no payment of compensation by the Council.

It is inevitable in a report of this kind that there has to be some amount of repetition. It is hoped that older members will regard this as a useful means of refreshing their memories, and that new members will be able to acquire some background knowledge of the work of the Department.

I acknowledge with appreciation the assistance I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, and from all my colleagues in other Departments. I am grateful to my staff for the interest they take in their duties which they conscientiously discharge.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,



Senior Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE

AREA.

Water.

The public water supply is provided by the Canterbury and District Water Company and is consistently pure. Regular and frequent samples show that it is of excellent organic quality and bacteriological standard.

Formerly the local supply was distributed by the Herne Bay Waterworks Company from a deep well at Ford. That Company has ceased to exist and its functions have been taken over by the Canterbury and District Water Company.

Early in 1957 a 6" main was extended from Whitstable to Herne Bay conveying water from the Canterbury supply. The local water derived from Ford is chlorinated before distribution and is exceedingly hard. For several years the Analyst has commented upon the progressive increase in salinity which has risen by 50% since 1948. The Canterbury supply is not hard and has no abnormal salinity. The mixture of Canterbury water with the local supply has improved palatability and reduced hardness.

A few properties in the parish of Chislet also obtain main water supply direct from Canterbury.

Examination of Water Samples.

Public Supply. Samples of the public water supply were taken during the year and the following are the results of examination by the Pathologist and the County Analyst.

<u>Bacteriological</u> <u>Examination.</u>	: 7 samples taken	All satisfactory
<u>Chemical</u> <u>Analysis.</u>	: 7 samples taken	All satisfactory.

One of the samples submitted for bacteriological examination was untreated and the remaining 6 samples were taken after the supply had been chlorinated.

Two complaints were received concerning discolouration of cooking utensils. This was traced to harmless quantities

of copper dissolved from new pipes.

Private Wells and Springs.

Five samples of untreated water were taken from private wells etc., and submitted for examination. Two of the samples proved to be unsatisfactory and unfit for drinking purposes unless previously boiled.

Number of dwelling houses supplied from the public water mains.

There are 7,697 houses and flats in the Urban District and all but 15 are supplied from the public water mains. Four dwellings receive a public water supply from outside standpipes. We are informed that during 1959, 569 yards of new water main were laid by the local Company to supply new houses and bungalows constructed by private enterprise.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The Councils modernised sewage purification works at May Street receives sewage mainly from Beltinge, Herne, and Broomfield. Sewage from the remainder of the Urban District passes by gravity or is pumped, to a disintegrator station at the East Cliff and thence to the sea.

There are now 118 cesspools which are emptied from time to time by the Council - some of these serve more than one property. There are also 29 properties served by pail closets.

At 78 occupied dwellings choked drains were cleansed by informal means. Most of these choked drains were cleared by the Public Health Department and a charge made to cover the cost. This service is much appreciated by the public because it enables prompt attention to be given to a matter which should be dealt with promptly. The alternative is the slow method of serving notices upon owners, or occupiers, with inevitable delay. At a further 19 properties drains were repaired or relaid by informal action. At one property drainage repairs were carried out by the Council in default of the owner after a statutory notice had been served and not complied with.

Three private sewers were repaired by the Council by agreement with owners of the 35 properties draining into them, and at their expense.

Tests are carried out upon house drainage systems at the request of their owners and upon payment of the Council's fees. The charge varies from two to three guineas per test according to the size of the drainage system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Wantsum forms the south-eastern boundary of the district before it passes to the sea, and is free from pollution.

The brook at Hampton is sprayed in summer to prevent it becoming a breeding place for insect pests. This treatment is also applied at many ditches throughout the district.

Plenty Brook at Eddington is troublesome from time to time and occasionally nuisance arises from a storm water overflow which discharges into the water course from the sewerage system.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council's 14 public conveniences for men and women are under the control of the Health Department. These conveniences have approximately a million users a year.

Four for women and two for men have turnstiles, and the remainder have independent coin locks upon entry doors. Cage pattern turnstiles were strongly disliked at womens conveniences where they have now been replaced by turnstiles of a low pattern. The cage pattern turnstiles remain in use at the mens conveniences where they appear to be accepted, as no objections have been received. Income increased by 100% when turnstiles were installed.

Since the end of the war, two new public conveniences have been constructed, one at William Street, and the other at Herne. At the Pier Pavilion an unsatisfactory convenience for men has been abolished, and a major reconstruction carried out at another.

The Council has, so far, been prevented from building public conveniences at Beltinge, because of objections to the siting of the proposed conveniences. Early in 1958, a local enquiry was held at Beltinge to consider objections to the Council's proposal to construct a public convenience upon land at the junction of Reculver Road and Terminus Drive.

These objections were upheld by the Minister.

At Reculver substandard "temporary" conveniences constructed in 1936 were abolished. It is now considered that the needs of the public at Reculver are adequately met by the conveniences upon several Caravan Sites.

In November, 1957, a sub-committee was appointed to inspect and report upon improvements considered necessary or desirable at the Council's public conveniences. Following the inspection a report was submitted to the Public Health and Housing Committee and adopted. It was decided to carry out improvements in stages, and in 1958 the Tower conveniences for women were dealt with, and a start was made upon the interior of the Tower conveniences for men. This was completed in 1959 and improvements required at other conveniences will continue subject to financial approval.

Wash and Brush-up Facilities.

It is the policy to provide washing facilities at all of the Council's public conveniences and each year further progress is made to this end. Where wash hand basins are installed, paper towel vending machines are provided. This arrangement applies also at conveniences where there are whole time attendants, and is a facility which is offered as an alternative to linen towels if required. In effect, at these conveniences there are two grades of washing facilities, namely, a 6d wash with linen towel, and a 3d wash with paper towel. This has proved popular and meets the needs of those who merely wish to wash their hands.

The "cheap" wash has considerably increased the total number of washes, and this has been done without substantially reducing the washes with linen towels. Records show that women have gone over almost entirely to paper towels, whereas the men seem to prefer linen towels when available. The charge for a wash with linen towel was increased to 6d in May, 1957, to cover increased costs.

There are slipper baths at two conveniences, one for men and the other for women. These baths continue to be used on an average of 600 times each year.

Staffing.

There are now more cleaners and less attendants. Full staffing with attendants is arranged only in the summer season, and even during the summer the smaller conveniences are now maintained by visiting cleaners to save upon the expense of employing whole time attendants. During the winter all conveniences which remain open are maintained by visiting cleaners. In this way the wages bill for cleaners and attendants has risen 29% since 1951 although wages have risen by 60% over the same period. This 29% increase includes the cost of labour at two new conveniences - William Street and Herne. (£525. per annum). It would be fair to exclude this amount from the calculation and the real increase over costs in 1951 is then shown to be as little as 12%.

Weighing Machines.

In 1957 eight weighing machines were installed at various public conveniences at a cost of £400. In 1958, a further two machines were installed at a cost of £100, and in 1959 another machine at a cost of £52. Expectations of revenue from these machines has been more than realised. During the first season £250. was collected from 8 machines, in the second season £265. was collected from 10 machines in a very bad summer. In the third season (1959) the sum of £320 was collected from 11 machines. In three years total receipts have amounted to £835. The cost of 11 machines amount to £552. and annual maintenance for three years has cost £58. Up-to-date, the 11 machines have paid for themselves and have shown a net profit of £215. Previously the weighing machine concession was let to a private company for an annual fee of £7.

Scent Spray Machines.

In the summer of 1959 concession was granted to the owner of scent spray machines to install four of these at various public conveniences. The Council was not involved in any expense and shared the revenue which amounted to £22. for the Council.

A "left luggage" service operates during the summer at William Street conveniences. This yields a small revenue and is much appreciated by visitors.

Conveniences cannot be self supporting and any receipts should be regarded as a contribution towards their cost and

maintenance. The revenue from weighing machines, etc., helps to increase that contribution.

CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED PREMISES.

The Council has an arrangement by which external urinals and water closets at five licensed premises are allowed to remain open beyond licensing hours for use by the general public. The daily lighting and cleansing of these conveniences is under-taken by the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service is administered by the Council's Surveyor. Domestic refuse is collected weekly from dwelling houses and conveyed by modern covered moving-floor vehicles to the refuse tip at Broomfield. Since 1952 the tip has been enlarged by 40 acres following a local enquiry. Control tipping at Broomfield has brought about considerable improvement in conditions at the refuse tip. After removal of marketable products the refuse is tipped in shallow layers and covered at the end of each day. This has resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of rats and these are now a minor problem at the tip.

Collection of refuse from Hotels, Restaurants, and some trade premises is carried out more frequently when required during the holiday season.

The Health Department is informed of any defective or unsatisfactory dustbins and during 1959 thirteen dustbins were supplied by owners and occupiers upon informal intimation that such were required.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year	5,838
Total number of interviews at the office with property owners, housing applicants, tenants, traders and others	1,725
Number of notices served - Statutory	44
" " " " - Informal	587

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

To Dwelling Houses :

For Public Health purposes and housing repairs	604
To inspect housing applicant's accommodation	173
" " houses for improvement grants	135
" " " " Certificates of Disrepair ...	23
" investigate complaints of substandard holiday accommodation	15
" inspect Council houses	285
" disinfestation of premises	20
" sewerage and drainage	185
" testing drains	18
" provision of dustbins	48
" remedy dirty conditions	18
For infectious disease and food poisoning enquiries	57
" disinfection of bedding and premises	12
" water supply	11
" flooded basements	2

To Food Premises :

For enforcement of Food Hygiene Regulations, etc ..	248
" sampling of milk, ice cream etc	156

For Other Purposes :

For destruction of rats and mice (and survey)	2,390
" supervision of caravan sites	76
" " " public conveniences	294
" " " " mortuary	42
To arrange National Assistance Act burials	2
" Factories and Outworkers premises	29
" Pet Shops	3
" visits to secure smoke abatement	6
" destruction of insect pests otherwise than in the disinfestation of premises	373
" nuisances at ditches and watercourses	30
For abatement of nuisances (generally)	36
" " " (keeping of animals) ...	5
" removal of accumulations from vacant land etc .	42
" miscellaneous purposes	33
" Shops Acts administration	82
" Public lighting and petroleum	385
Interviews at office : Public Health etc	742
Housing applicants & tenants	939
Improvement Grants	32
Rent Act	12

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENT EFFECTED :

Unfit houses demolished	4
" " represented for closure	9
" " closed for human habitation	7
" " closed for human habitation and subsequently made fit	1
Houses repaired and made fit for habitation	43
" at which minor defects have been remedied ..	21
Overcrowding abated	3
Houses disinfected	25
Bedding disinfected or destroyed	1
Dirty conditions improved at dwelling houses	7
Cesspool abolished and drains connected to sewer ..	2
" repaired and made watertight	2
New toilet blocks constructed at caravan sites	2
Caravan site at which defects were remedied	1
Urinals at licensed premises improved	1
Choked drains cleansed by informal action	78
Defective drainage systems and sewers, repaired or relaid	19
Ditches and watercourses cleansed and regraded	4
Accumulations removed	27
Dustbins provided on request to owners and occupiers	13
Flooded cellars cleansed after heavy rainfall	2
Statutory nuisances abated (dampness and defects) .	6
Certificates of Disrepair issued or cancelled	9
Smoke nuisances abated	5
Animal nuisances abated	3

Disinfestation :

Houses disinfested	6
Treatment applied for destruction of insect pests elsewhere	135
Premises treated for destruction of rats and mice .	236

Food Premises - Improvements resulting mainly from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Water closets provided and premises connected to sewer	1
Water closets disconnected from food preparation rooms	1
Sinks provided	1
Wash hand basins together with hot water provided .	6
Constant hot water provided to existing sinks and wash hand basins	9

cont.

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED:Cont.

Food Premises - Improvements resulting mainly from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Storage provided for outdoor clothing	1
Floor repaired	1
Walls and ceilings of food preparation rooms cleansed	5
Unsatisfactory food storage discontinued	2

Offences Dealt with under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Foreign matter in bread	3
Contamination of food equipment	1
Smoking whilst handling open food	2

Factories Act :

Water closet disconnected from factory	1
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SMOKE CONTROL.

Herne Bay is a residential and holiday resort with little industry so it is free from the problems of industrial smoke, with the exception of the occasional emission from Laundry chimneys.

Domestic smoke is a problem in every town and, even at industrial towns, it is a major cause of atmospheric pollution.

It is important therefore to prevent domestic smoke by the burning of smokeless fuels, and by the use of solid fuel appliances of a design which is approved by the Coal Utilisation Council.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Council has decided to adopt the Model Smoke Prevention byelaw. This will come into force early in 1960 and will require at all new buildings,

- (a) only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning gas, electricity, coke or anthracite,

or

- (b) appliances which are approved by the Coal Utilisation Council - these will efficiently burn solid fuel with a minimum of smoke emission.

It is well to remember that smoke emission is not only bad in itself, because it pollutes the atmosphere and deposits soot, but it is a measure of the extent to which coal is wastefully consumed.

Smoke is formed of unconsumed particles of carbon, which should have been raised to ignition temperature to release heat instead of being belched into the atmosphere to waste and pollute.

Adoption of the Smoke Prevention Byelaw gives practical support to the movement to secure clean air. It will ensure that after the date upon which the byelaw is adopted, all new buildings at Herne Bay will be equipped with smokeless, or relatively smokeless means of cooking and heating.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, is a great help in dealing with the smoke problem. The Act has four main purposes :-

- (a) To prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys, railway engines, and vessels, subject to certain qualifications.
- (b) To prohibit the installation of new industrial furnaces unless they are capable, so far as practicable, of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (c) To require that the emission of grit and dust from existing industrial furnaces shall be minimised, and that new industrial furnaces shall be provided with grit arresting equipment.
- (d) To empower Local Authorities by order, subject to approval by the Ministry concerned, to declare "smoke-control areas" in which the emission of smoke from chimneys will constitute an offence.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

82 visits were made to shop premises concerning the Shops Act, 1950, generally and most of these were inspected as to requirements relating to the health and comfort of shop workers. The few defects and deficiencies which were noted were remedied by informal action.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action concerning unsatisfactory office accommodation.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

During the year six houses were treated for destruction of fleas. No houses were found to require treatment for the destruction of bugs.

I am pleased to comment again upon the continued improvement in the general standard of cleanliness. Verminous houses are now rarely encountered.

Before the occupation of a house owned or controlled by the Council, the incoming tenant's furniture is examined **if** there is any doubt as to the possibility of infestation. Many tenants are so obviously clean that this check is not necessary in all cases.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Tables giving the prescribed particulars required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, are included at the end of the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

These show that there have been 36 inspections of factories, and visits to 28 outworkers homes. This was to ensure that the "outwork" (the making of wearing apparel and artificial flowers) was carried out under satisfactory conditions.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

What I have to report under this heading is largely repetition, but if members are to have a complete picture, I cannot avoid repeating some information which has appeared in previous Annual Reports.

There are 14 licensed camping sites in the Urban District which accommodated 1,411 caravans and 41 tents when a census was taken in July, 1959. One of these, at Keat Farm, Hillborough, was licensed for the first time in 1959.

Individual annual licences have been granted to two caravans occupied as residences. Two types of licence can be granted under the Public Health Act, 1936. One is a licence permitting land to be used for occupation by moveable dwellings, and the other is in respect of the individual "moveable dwelling" itself. Licensed sites at Herne Bay are for holiday camping only and not for permanent residence. For that reason site licences restrict the occupation of caravans from 1st March to 31st October in each year.

The caravan holiday continues to retain its popularity, especially with families having young children. There is much to be said for the freedom of the caravan holiday upon a choice site with good summer weather. There must be more than 5,000 persons staying at licensed sites at the peak of the holiday season. To this must be added the many young people who stay at tented camps during school holidays.

The largest camp is conducted by the Council upon two sites at Reculver. The site south of Reculver Towers is well provided with amenities and useful facilities. It has a number of water closets, ablution basins, showers, and foot-baths, all of which are contained in two spacious brick buildings - one for each sex. There are also facilities for washing personal clothing - very necessary where there are small children. These arrangements are repeated upon the Council's west site where a large brick building was completed in 1957. Consideration has been given to the provision of additional closets and washing facilities at the site south of Reculver Towers.

The conveniences and washing arrangements provided by the Herne Bay Council at its Reculver Caravan Sites are a good example of what such facilities should be. There is also an administrative building and in 1959 there was a manager in charge of both sites. At the administrative building all

manner of useful services are available for caravaners. In recent years a local doctor has been in attendance on certain evenings each week to deal with campers ailments and give medical attention when necessary.

Each of the twelve caravan sites have water closets and satisfactory systems of drainage. Seven sites are drained to the public sewer; three have private purification plants, including the Council's caravan sites at Reculver. The remaining sites are drained to cesspools which are regularly emptied by the Council at the expense of the licensees. At the Council's site south of Reculver Towers, concrete roads have been extended and additional gullies together with standpipes provided for the convenience of campers.

Licensed sites are generally of good type as the Council insists upon high standards of sanitation, cleanliness and general good management. Regular inspections are made throughout the summer months to ensure that the standard is maintained. In July each year it is the practice for the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committee to carry out an inspection of caravan sites.

Improvements have been made during the course of the year at Westbrook Caravan Site where an additional sanitation and ablution building was provided for both sexes.

Owners of camp sites are encouraged to provide adequate artificial lighting, especially at the access to conveniences. The occupation of all tents and caravans upon licensed sites is restricted to prevent winter occupation of caravans which is considered by the Council to be undesirable.

The following licensed sites are in regular use during the summer months. Figures in brackets show the number of caravans at each site during the summer of 1959.

- (606) Two Herne Bay Urban District Council camps, Reculver, (west and south of Reculver Towers)
- {43} Glencourt Caravan Site, Fairfax Drive, Beltinge.
- (24) Camp at Coastguard House, Swalecliffe.
- {120} Camp at "Waterways" Tea Gardens, Reculver.
- {115} Cliff Pavilion Glenbervie Drive, Beltinge.
- {46} Cliff Top, Standard Avenue, Studd Hill.
- (83) Kendall's Camp, Beltinge.

- (62) S. W. Farrow's Camp, Reculver. (2 sites)
- (119) Hillborough Park - formerly the London Boys Camp.
- (73) Westbrook Camp, Sea Street.
- (70) Hoathwood Caravan Site, Herne Common.
- (50) Keat Farm, Hillborough. (New licence).

The former London Boys Camp at Hillborough was purchased by Mr. A. Fitt who intends to develop it as a superior type of caravan site with club house for members. In 1958, 35 caravans were sited, and in 1959 the number increased to 119. When fully developed, the site will contain 400 caravans.

At the nearby Keat Farm 22 tents and 50 caravans were sited in July and August upon land which was licensed under the Public Health Act subject to the provision of necessary sanitary accommodation etc.

During the school holidays numerous tented camps are set up by Youth Organisations, which are exempted from the licensing requirements of the Public Health Act. These camps are well organised and conducted.

Abbotswood Estate, at the west end of the town, was sold as building plots many years ago, but has not been developed. Some of the plot owners make use of their sites for short period camping during summer holidays. The land is not licensed under the Public Health Act.

INSECT PESTS.

141 applications were received and dealt with for the destruction of fleas, flies, cockroaches, earwigs, silver fish, crickets, ants, red mite, furniture beetles, wasps and bees. Ponds and streams were regularly sprayed throughout the summer months for the destruction of mosquitoes etc.

During the summer of 1959 the Health Department was called upon to deal with an exceptionally large number of wasp nests. 89 nests were destroyed, and it is understood that an average nest contains 20,000 wasps. A charge of 5/- is made for each nest destroyed upon private property.

Occasionally we are asked to give advice concerning insects which are unknown to us. These we send to the British Museum (Natural History Section) for identification. The

Entomologist promptly supplies full information of life history, habits and methods of destruction, and this service is much appreciated.

RODENT CONTROL.

A free service is provided by the Council for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings. A charge is made at business premises, including farms.

During the year under review 236 premises were treated for destruction of rats and mice. All adjoining premises were surveyed to ascertain the extent of infestations reported or discovered. A total of 2,390 visits were made for survey of premises and treatment where rats were found.

Rat destruction is not a haphazard process. A standard technique is carefully followed, and advantage is taken of new poisons and improved methods as these are developed by the Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whose assistance I am pleased to acknowledge with gratitude. Efforts of neighbouring local authorities are co-ordinated and joint meetings are held from time to time.

Treatment was applied for rat destruction at :

	<u>Degree of infestation.</u>	
	<u>Major.</u>	<u>Minor.</u>
Private dwellinghouses	-	165
Business premises	-	39
Refuse Tip	-	10
At agricultural property	-	4

Treatment was applied for mice destruction at :

Private dwellinghouses	15
Business premises	2
School canteens	1

A "Major" infestation is one where there are twelve or more rats; less than that number is regarded as a "Minor" infestation.

It was not necessary during the year to serve any statutory notices to secure destruction of rats at infested premises.

The Council's refuse tip at Broomfield is treated regularly each month throughout the year for rat destruction. A refuse tip is a special attraction to rats and it is interesting to record that during most of 1959 the tip was again free from rats. This is no doubt the result of controlled tipping and continuous baiting.

Agricultural land and premises were systematically surveyed throughout the district; at four farms rats were discovered and dealt with. Particular attention is paid to ricks during threshing, when guards have to be erected to prevent escape of rats which may be in the rick.

Accumulations were removed frequently from undeveloped land, for if allowed to remain they afford harbourage for rats and mice.

RAT DESTRUCTION IN SEWERS.

Sewers are treated regularly each year for rat destruction. In 1959 a treatment was applied during May when 58 manholes were baited in two sections where rats were found at the previous treatment. Bait was taken at 17 of the 58 manholes and, at these, poison bait was subsequently laid until the rats had been exterminated.

Treatment of sewers for destruction of rats is considered to be important because sewer infestations so often give rise to surface infestations. If rats are to be controlled upon the surface, sewers must not escape treatment. It is fortunate for the purpose of rat control that the sewerage system at Herne Bay is composed of nine separate sections. This isolates infestations and facilitates rat destruction treatment. In four of the sections there have been no rats since 1947.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

This Act, which came into force on the 1st November, 1951 is intended to secure the use of clean filling materials, for which purpose a local authority must :

- (a) Consider the granting, renewing or withholding of licences for premises relating to rag flock;

- (b) Carry out inspections of registered and licensed premises as often as may appear to be necessary.
- (c) Grant certificates of registration in respect of premises using filling materials to which the Act applies;
- (d) Take proceedings for offences under the Act.

Four premises in the Urban District are registered under the Act.

HOUSING.

Inspection, Repair, Closure and Demolition.

(a)	Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	265
(b)	Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	245
(c)	Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense. (Includes the King's Road etc., Clearance Area)	24
(d)	Number of houses at which defects were remedied by informal action	64
(e)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Public Health Act	6
(f)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made	2
(g)	Number of houses demolished (2 had Orders made in a previous year)	4
(h)	Number of houses closed in pursuance of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Includes one part of a house - a basement)	7
(i)	Number of houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled	1

Notes.

- (f) Demolition Orders were made in respect of Hillborough Grange, and Albion House, Herne.
- (g) Houses demolished were Chislet Mill Cottage, White House, West End, Thatch Cottage, West End, and 7 Churchill Avenue.
- (h) Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made prohibiting their use for human habitation:-

Priory Cottage, Eddington.
1 Rose Cottage, Herne Street.
1 & 2 Pond Cottages, Broomfield.
1 & 2 The Triangle, Hillborough,
71 Mortimer Street (2 basement rooms)

- (i) House reconditioned, improved and made fit:-

48 Talbot Avenue.

THE "FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME" - PROGRESS REPORT.

In 1955, 139 houses were surveyed and 65 of them were scheduled as unfit. They are to be dealt with by demolition or closure, during a five year period from August 1955/1960. This survey was carried out by all local authorities as a requirement of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. By December 1959 the following progress had been made with the Five Year Programme. 58 houses, or parts of houses, had been closed or demolished or were in process of closure or demolition. This figure includes 13 houses in the King's Road Clearance Area represented for demolition. In addition 33 houses, not included in the Five Year Programme, were found to be unfit and were closed for human habitation.

THE KING'S ROAD CLEARANCE AREA.

This Clearance Area comprises Nos. 74 - 90 King's Road (9 houses), Nos. 14 - 17 Queen's Street (4 houses), and Snows Cottage, Beach Street.

They were represented by the Medical Officer of Health in June. It is intended to purchase the sites together with adjoining land for construction of flats.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS - HOUSING ACT, 1949.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

These Acts all deal with improvement grants which were introduced as long ago as 1949 in the Housing Act of that year. For many years neither local authorities nor the public made much use of the legislation authorising the making of improvement grants despite constant encouragement by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Basically the grants are intended to be used to improve and modernise the older type of houses which are structurally sound but lacking amenities. Grants are also available for the conversion of the larger type of old dwelling which is structurally sound and can be converted to more than one separate habitation.

In June 1959 a new system of "standard" grants was introduced to supplement the existing system of improvement grants.

The new "standard" grants are available only towards the cost of installing what might be called "standard amenities" i.e.

Bath.
Water closet.
Wash hand basin.
Hot water supply.
Food Store.

Grant for a standard amenity can be claimed as a right subject to the house having a certain life, and to it being in a reasonable state of fitness for habitation. This right to a standard grant introduces a new principle. The earlier type of grant, which remains for larger improvements and conversions, is at the discretion of a local authority which may or may not make a grant, and can decide the amount not exceeding 50% of the cost of improvement works with a maximum of £400 per unit.

Numerous enquiries have been made concerning the new standard grants, but fewer applications have been received than we expected. However, they seem to have stimulated interest in the discretionary type of grant for the schemes approved doubled in number and in total cost.

The following are the figures for 1959:-

	<u>Kind of Grant.</u>	
	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Standard.</u>
Number of schemes submitted.	25	6
" " " approved.	24	6
" " dwellings resulting.	30	-
Total cost of approved works.	£12,733.	£753
" amount of grants approved.	£5,613	£377

In June 1959, at the inception of standard grants, the administration of improvement grants passed from the Surveyor's Department to the Public Health and Housing Department by mutual agreement of the officers concerned and with the consent of the Council.

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - OVERCROWDING.

1.	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	7
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	13
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	52
2.	Number of new cases of overcrowding recorded during the year	None
3.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3

Sub-Letting at Council Houses.

The Council makes a charge of 5s. 0d a week for permitted sub-letting at Council houses, and 2s. 6d per week in respect of lodgers, where permitted.

In 1958 it was decided to discontinue charges in respect of aged parents living with sons and daughters with no income other than the State pension.

By the end of 1959 there were 9 sub-tenants and 6 lodgers residing at Council houses with consent, and upon payment of the above charges.

GARAGES AND CAR PARKING AT COUNCIL HOUSES.

During the past few years the parking of cars upon front lawns and forecourts has become a growing practice. The Council decided to prohibit this parking, which damages lawns and detracts from the good appearance of the Council's estates. It has been necessary to threaten tenants with notice to quit to abate offences.

The Council has provided two garages at Council houses on tenant's request. They are let at rents which will meet the rates and loan repayments. A few tenants have been allowed to erect garages. There is a need for lock-up garages at Council houses, and 33 tenants have intimated that they would be willing to rent garages at a weekly rental of 7/6d to 10/-. There is also need for some recognised "hard standing" parking places for tenants unable or unwilling to rent garages. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has intimated that he would approve a loan for the building of lock-up garages at Council housing estates.

POULTRY KEEPING AT COUNCIL HOUSES.

Regulations continue in force for the control of poultry keeping at Council houses. The keeping of cockerels is prohibited and hens must not exceed six in number.

Hen-houses must be constructed according to a standard design.

The object of the regulations and standardised hen-houses is to ensure that poultry are not kept so as to become an unsightly nuisance, which so often happens when poultry keeping is uncontrolled.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

The number of new houses erected during the year and the number under construction on 31st December, 1959, was as follows:-

Houses and flats erected by:	Number erected.	Number under construction.
The Local Authority.	18	8
Other bodies and persons.	194	111
TOTALS	212	119

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION OWNED BY THE COUNCIL.

The total number of houses, flats etc., owned by the Local Authority at 31st December, 1959, was 738. The number includes 165 pre-war three bedroom houses and 11 miscellaneous pre-war properties. The balance includes 421 post-war houses, 92 post-war flats and 49 prefabricated bungalows.

The 421 post-war houses are mainly of the three bedroom type, but there are some with two bedrooms and a few with four bedrooms.

Eight single bedroom flats at Clarence Street were nearing completion at the end of the year.

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

Routine inspection of Council houses to ascertain the state of cleanliness, state of interior decorations, and the general condition of each property is necessary.

With present staff it is impossible to inspect them more frequently than once in five years.

When routine inspection reveals a house which is in need of more frequent inspection that is arranged.

During 1959 a start was made on this five year programme and 135 houses were inspected with the following results:-

Condition as to cleanliness.

Good	127
Fair	6
Poor	2

Condition of interior decoration.

Good	98
Fair	28
Poor	7
Bad	2

RENTS.

Rents of Council houses at Herne Bay are no longer subsidised by direct subsidy from the local rates. The local rate subsidy was withdrawn early in 1956.

Rents, including rates, vary from £1. 3. 8d per week for three bedroom, pre-war houses, to £2. 7. 0d per week for three bedroom, post-war houses. Post-war four bedroom houses are £2. 7. 0d per week. Flats are let at £1. 6. 3d and £1. 11.2d per week. (These rents include rates levied for the financial year commencing the 1st April, 1960.)

A review of rents was undertaken in the autumn and increases were decided upon to meet increased cost of repairs. These increases are to come into force on 1st April, 1960, and are shown in the above figures.

A differential rent scheme has been considered by the Council but has not been proceeded with.

COUNCIL HOUSE GARDENS COMPETITION.

This is a useful method of encouraging tenants to cultivate attractive gardens. At the same time it gives opportunity for members of the Public Health and Housing Committee to become acquainted with the Council's housing estates. Inspection of the gardens and judging is done by Members themselves who decide upon the gardens worthy of prizes. The first prize is a Silver Challenge Cup held for one year by the tenant having the best front and back garden. The holder also receives a cheque for three guineas. There are second

and third prizes in that class and a further three prizes, first, second and third, for houses with back gardens only.

Neglected gardens at 14 houses were reported by the inspecting members. This was taken up with the tenants concerned who were given 14 days to cut down weeds and overgrown vegetation.

At 7 houses tenants failed to do this so the Council acted in default at a cost of £10. 4. 0d to be recovered from the 7 tenants.

HOUSING OF APPLICANTS AND TRANSFER OF TENANTS.

During the year a total of 34 houses, prefabs and flats have been let to new tenants in the following categories:-

Applicants selected from the general housing register.	13
Applicants with special need.	2
Applicants evicted by Court Order.	5
Applicant from K.C.C. Hostel (former resident)	1
Tenants rehoused from released requisitioned houses.	2
Tenants rehoused from unfit houses.	8
Council staff.	1
Key workers (to aid new industry)	2

18 of these were housed directly or indirectly at new single bedroom flats at Pier Avenue and Avenue Road.

14 were rehoused at accommodation given up by previous tenants. The remaining 2 were rehoused at accommodation vacant at the beginning of the year. An applicant was housed by the Harlow Development Corporation.

In addition to the above, 25 tenants were transferred to accommodation more suitable to the needs of their growing or diminishing families.

Two tenants were required to transfer to smaller accommodation from under-occupied four bedroom houses and one from an under-occupied three bedroom house.

Four exchanges of tenancy were permitted with tenants of Council houses of various towns.

REQUISITIONED HOUSES.

The last three properties were released from requisition during the year. Two tenants were transferred to Council houses, and the other tenant rejected three offers of Council accommodation. She was eventually evicted by Court Order.

In April 1952, the Minister of Housing and Local Government appointed a Working Party to report upon requisitioned properties.

Gradual release was subsequently recommended by the Working Party and that policy has been followed by the Council. At one time there were 74 families housed at 41 requisitioned properties at Herne Bay.

UNDER-OCCUPATION AT COUNCIL HOUSES.

In November I reported upon under-occupation at Council houses. There were at that time 94 under-occupied houses as follows :-

Pre-war houses	:	40	(7 occupied by 1 person)
Post-war "	:	12	(6 occupied by 1 person)
Prefabs.	:	7	(all occupied by 1 person)
2 bedroom flats	:	35	(all occupied by 1 person)

In consequence of the report, the Council adopted the following policy upon the recommendation of the Public Health and Housing Committee :

- (a) that it is considered to be the duty of the Council to ensure that none of the houses or flats under its control are seriously under occupied;

- (b) that tenants of under occupied premises be encouraged to transfer to smaller accommodation when such accommodation is available.
- (c) that when such transfers take place the Council pay the reasonable cost of removal;
- (d) that the compulsory transfer of tenants to smaller accommodation will be required if necessary; it is hoped that this distasteful course will be avoided by voluntary agreement.

SELECTION OF TENANTS.

It is still the practice before each housing allocation to visit applicants who have been waiting for a year or more. Not only does this provide up-to-date information upon the living conditions of applicants, but it enables the housing register to be revised by the deletion of names of those who have left the district without notification, or who no longer have a genuine housing need.

HOUSING REGISTER.

The register at the end of the year contained the names of 397 applicants, all but 7 of whom were local residents. The 7 non-residents qualify as applicants because they are employed at Herne Bay.

In November, the composition of the waiting list was analysed, and applicants classified according to the type of accommodation they would need which was as follows :-

Applicants with children needing 2 or 3 bedroom houses.	187
Elderly couples needing 2 bedroom flats.	67
Young couples without children.	32
Single applicants (mostly elderly) needing one bedroom flats.	96

The waiting list, which reached a peak of nearly 1,000 in the early post-war years, reduced to 260 by December, 1956. It has since risen to 397 and it will probably continue to rise for the following reasons :-

- (a) The Rent Act, 1957, has so increased the rents of privately owned properties that Council houses are now a better proposition - a better house with modern amenities at a rent which is generally lower than a comparable house privately owned.

Tenants who were prepared to endure low rented houses in poor repair and lacking in amenities have had to meet heavy rent increases and are seeking better value for their money.

Many tenants of privately owned houses have received notice to quit and feel insecure even though some owners are disinclined to enforce eviction by taking Court proceedings. These tenants place their names on the Council's housing register.

- (b) The construction of flats at Pier Avenue, etc., has stimulated a flow of new applicants from many elderly people who have not previously considered applying for Council accommodation. Many of these are having to pay higher rent increases than they can afford, and others are finding it difficult to live in large houses they cannot maintain.

The following table shows the position of the housing register since 1950 :

December	1950	-	645	applicants.
"	1951	-	495	"
"	1952	-	512	"
"	1953	-	323	"
"	1954	-	346	"
"	1955	-	317	"
"	1956	-	260	"
"	1957	-	305	"
"	1958	-	355	"
"	1959	-	397	"

HOUSES GIVEN UP BY THEIR TENANTS.

It will be noted under a previous paragraph that 14 tenancies were given up during 1959. This is a reduction on the number of houses given up in 1958. It is now more difficult to obtain well paid employment in other parts of the country and that is having its effect, together with the Rent Act, 1957, in discouraging movement from Council houses.

Houses given up in 1951	-	Nil
" " " " 1952	-	6
" " " " 1953	-	6
" " " " 1954	-	19
" " " " 1955	-	23
" " " " 1956	-	21
" " " " 1957	-	29
" " " " 1958	-	21
" " " " 1959	-	14

FUTURE HOUSING POLICY.

In November a special meeting of the Public Health and Housing Committee was held to consider future housing policy. It was decided to continue with the building of flats and to use the building quota for 1960 for construction of flats with one and two bedrooms, mainly for the rehousing of tenants of under-occupied Council houses to release them for young applicants with children.

In July, 1958, it was decided to purchase a large house for conversion to 6 - 2 room flats for old people. This occurred after a visit to Brighton where similar conversions were inspected by the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

In 1959 there was an appeal by a few local residents against the proposed use of the house and a local enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The appeal was dismissed.

Housing policy is still determined centrally to a large extent, and local authorities are not free to build as many houses as they wish. Quotas, introduced as an anti-inflationary measure, have not been lifted. The building quota for 1960 is 42 units which have to suffice for all purposes - general need and rehousing tenants from unfit houses. The quota

includes ten units which have been allocated specially for key workers to aid the establishment of new industries. It has been decided to build one and two bedroom flats mostly at the Sea Street Estate, and the remainder at Canterbury Road. Each year the Council reviews its housing policy. It was decided to continue for a further year the policy of building no more houses.

The policy of the Government upon housing subsidies was revised in 1957. No subsidies are now payable in respect of houses built for "general purposes", namely, for applicants upon the waiting list. Houses built to accommodate tenants from unfit houses closed or demolished under the Housing Act, qualify for a subsidy of £22. 1. 0d per annum for 60 years, and single bedroom flats qualify for a subsidy of £10. 0. 0d per annum for the same period.

This discourages the building of houses by Councils except for housing persons to be displaced from unfit houses.

High building costs, high rates of interest, and discontinuance of subsidies are still a considerable financial deterrent to the building of houses for general purposes. At Herne Bay housing for general needs is now dependant largely upon termination of existing tenancies.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act, which has raised much controversy, came into operation on 6th July, 1957. Briefly, it decontrols certain houses and allows the rents of others to be increased, subject to reasonable repair.

A tenant can serve upon the landlord a notice setting out particulars of the repairs considered necessary. After a period of 6 weeks, if the landlord and tenant have not agreed upon what is to be done, and no undertaking has been given by the landlord, application can be made to the Council for a "Certificate of Disrepair".

When such a certificate is granted the tenant can make certain rent deductions until it is cancelled upon completion of the necessary works. During 1957, fifteen applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair, in 1958 there were eleven, and in 1959 there was one application. All of these were granted.

Owners of eight houses made application for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair, and these were granted. One objection by a tenant was disregarded because it was not valid. One house was repaired by an owner in pursuance of an undertaking made under the Act.

Repairs which a tenant considers necessary should be agreed upon with the landlord. The Council is not concerned unless application for a Certificate of Disrepair is made by a tenant who has failed to reach agreement with his landlord.

An inspection is then made, and more often than not the list of defects prepared by the tenant is found to omit important items of disrepair.

The Act makes another important change in the law relating to landlord and tenant. It abolishes one week's notice to quit and substitutes a minimum of four weeks. This longer notice applies to Council houses and to furnished lettings. It applies whether the notice is served by the landlord or the tenant.

MILK.

The number of dairies and distributors operating in the Urban District at the end of the year was as follows:-

Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Distributors	-	10
Retail Dairies	-	3

In addition, there are 42 general shops from which small quantities of bottled milk is sold. The number of registered dairies is reduced to three because other milk distributors now receive milk already bottled at registered premises.

The sale of bottled milk at general shops is on the increase and, as a measure of protection, traders are encouraged to keep the milk in a refrigerator or in a cool place. Any milk unsold on the day of delivery is collected by the supplier.

Much of the milk sold at Herne Bay - particularly during the summer months - is derived from sources outside the town.

Examination of Samples.

The following samples of milk were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, for examination :

Grade of Milk	No. of samples taken.	Satisfied the test.	Failed the test.
Tuberculin Tested. (Raw Milk)	38	34	4
Pasteurised Milk. Methylene Blue test.	28	28	-
Phosphatase test	28	28	-

Note : Samples of Tuberculin tested milk are taken on arrival at retailers' premises in series of three consecutive samples from each producer.

If more than one sample fails in a series, a report is obtained from the Provincial Milk Officer, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Keeping Quality of Milk.

Local dairies and milk distributors' premises are equipped with refrigerators which help to preserve the keeping quality of milk until sent out on the rounds for delivery to consumers.

ANNUAL LICENCES TO RETAIL MILK UNDER SPECIAL DESIGNATION.

The following licences were granted to milk distributors during 1959 :

Type of Licence :

Dealer's Licence to sell	
"Tuberculin Tested" milk	20
Supplementary Licence	1

Dealer's Licence to sell	
"Pasteurised" milk	40
Supplementary Licence	1

Dealer's Licence to sell	
"Sterilised" milk	29

PASTEURISATION PLANT.

There is a small pasteurising plant in the Urban District. It is licensed by the Kent County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority. This plant, formerly the "Holder method", was replaced by the more modern High Temperature Short Time Pasteurising Plant in 1958.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1955.

This Order came into force on 6th December, 1955, and applies to an area which includes Herne Bay. The Order has the effect of restricting the sale of milk to that which is pasteurised, sterilised, or tuberculin tested.

More than 90% of the population of England and Wales now live in specified areas within which only the above specially designated "safe" milk may be sold by retail.

I have mentioned this in previous annual reports but it is worth repeating because it is extremely important.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat Inspection and Slaughter Arrangements.

At the outbreak of war there were four licensed slaughter-houses in use at Herne Bay. By the end of 1956 there remained only one licensed slaughterhouse, and it had not been used since 1939.

That remaining licence was allowed to lapse at the end of 1959, when the ownership of the premises changed. The new owner intimated that he was not prepared to carry out the extensive alterations and improvements which would be necessary.

I have explained in previous annual reports the many phases which have led up to the present position. It is sufficient now to record that the Council was much concerned in the early post war period about the four rather poor licensed slaughterhouses at Herne Bay, and about the whole question of the slaughtering needs of the district.

Meetings took place with local butchers, and others were convened by the Canterbury City Council, at which Herne Bay and many other local authorities in East Kent were represented.

It is now established that the slaughtering needs of the district are adequately met by the Abattoir at Canterbury. This is a modern Abattoir operating on the "line system" which was one of five experimental abattoirs constructed by the Ministry of Food during the war.

To sum up - the licences of four unsatisfactory slaughterhouses at Herne Bay have been allowed to lapse over a period of years, with no hardship or inconvenience to their owners, and no payment of compensation by the Council.

Meat transport.

The transport of meat is controlled by legislation and meat vans are inspected from time to time when seen unloading in the town. Representations have been made which have secured improvements in transport and handling of meat.

The very latest type of wholesale meat delivery van has been introduced by the Fat Stock Marketing Corporation. This van, as well as being insulated and lined with metal, is provided with much improved loading and un-loading arrangements. These operations can be carried out without the need for the carrier to enter the van. This avoids the risk of contamination of the van by unclean footwear.

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year 1,045 lbs of food of all kinds was found to be unfit for human consumption and was surrendered by various traders. Although carcasses and organs of animals are inspected at the Abattoir after slaughter, conditions are occasionally met with at butchers shops which could not be detected at time of slaughter. I refer to such conditions as deep-seated bruising, bone taint, abscesses, advanced fatty change etc., which are dealt with by your own inspectors, both of whom are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods. The above figure of unsound food includes 211 lbs of home killed and imported meat and offal. The carcass and offal of one pig was inspected after emergency slaughter and passed as fit for human food.

Condemned food is disposed of by burial.

THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

In previous annual reports I have outlined the action taken since these important Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956. All food premises were inspected in 1956, and they have since been revisited, to secure compliance with legal requirements.

Premises and equipment have generally been brought up to the required standard, indeed many have exceeded the minimum legal standards imposed by the Regulations.

During 1959 the following were required at food premises inspected :-

Insanitary food preparing room - use discontinued	2
Sinks provided	1
Hot water provided over sink and wash hand basin	9
Wash hand basins with hot water provided ...	6
Store provided for outdoor clothing	1
Walls etc. cleansed	5
Floors repaired	1
Water closets provided	1
Water closets disconnected from food preparation rooms	1

Drainage system provided and connected to the sewer	1
Drainage system provided and connected to a cesspool	1

Offences dealt with.

Smoking whilst handling food	2
Foreign matter in food	3
Contamination of food equipment	1

The foreign matter in food consisted of oil in bread which had seeped from machinery, and a brass weight in a tin of minced Beef loaf.

Food Hygiene - Codes of Practice.

The Minister of Health, jointly with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has prepared codes of practice relating to hygiene in the retail meat trade, and the hygienic transport and handling of meat. It is hoped that these extremely useful codes of practice will be generally followed throughout the trade.

Hygiene by common consent is more likely to succeed than hygiene imposed by legislation, although it has to be available in the last resort for those who will not respond to persuasion.

Food Hygiene - Education.

A series of lectures concerning the preparation and handling of food was held at Canterbury Technical College during the autumn. Local food traders and their employees were notified and encouraged to attend.

ICE CREAM.

Premises at which ice cream is manufactured or sold are subject to control by the Food and Drugs Act. The manufacture and sale of ice cream is also controlled by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

At the end of 1959 a total of 106 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, and two for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. Locally, one trader only

manufactures ice cream, and he uses the "hot-mix" method. During the year eight new registrations were approved for the sale of wrapped ice cream. One application for sale of ice cream at a petrol filling station was refused.

In addition to the above, ice cream is sold at 48 cafes, Inns, and restaurants, which do not require to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

"Lollipops" are manufactured at two premises, but these do not require to be registered for that purpose. It is now the policy to encourage traders selling wrapped ice cream to provide litter receptacles upon their premises. This helps considerably in keeping wrappers off the pavements outside ice cream premises.

Examination of Samples.

17 samples were submitted for pathological examination during the year, with the following results :

No. of Samples.	Classification in Grades.
12	Grade 1
3	" 11
2	" 111
Nil	" 1V

It is pleasing to note that none of the samples were classified Grade 1V, and there were two only classified Grade 111.

Fourteen samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and were shown to have very good compositional quality - superior in all cases to the minimum compositional standard now required by law. Results of samples taken over the years give confidence that good quality ice cream is produced and sold to the public under satisfactory conditions of cleanliness.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, prescribes a legal minimum standard of fat 5%, milk solids other than fat 7¹/₂% and sugar 10%.

Cream.

Following complaints of early souring of cream, samples were submitted for pathological examination with results which were not satisfactory. The cream was manufactured at another East Kent town, and co-operation of the Health Department of that town revealed weakness in the system of delivery which has since been rectified.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES AND OTHERS.

In addition to the registered dairies and ice cream premises already referred to, the following food premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

Premises for preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	30
Fried fish shops	5

Food premises which are not at present required to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act, include cafes, restaurants, bakehouses, confectionery, groceries and provisions, fruit, vegetables, wet fish, etc., of which there are 256.

A total of 404 visits were made to food premises of all kinds during 1959.

PET ANIMALS ACT.

This Act came into operation upon the 1st April, 1952. It prohibits the keeping of a pet shop, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Council.

In deciding whether to grant a licence, the Council must have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided :

- (a) accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting and ventilation;
- (b) adequate supply of suitable food and drink;
- (c) that all reasonable precautions will be taken in case of fire and other emergency, and that animals will not be sold at too early an age.

Licences designed to secure compliance with the above and other conditions, have been granted by the Council permitting the keeping of pet animal shops at three premises in the Urban District, viz :

157 High Street.
144 Mortimer Street.
174 Mortimer Street.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

In August of 1957 the administration of the above Order was delegated by the Kent County Council to the Herne Bay Urban District Council.

The Order requires the licensing of plant to ensure the efficient boiling of waste foods intended to be used for feeding pigs and poultry.

Mr. Hill of Briary Farm, Greenhill, is the only local pig and poultry keeper who operates within the scope of the Order. He has a licence to operate plant at his premises.

PETROLEUM.

There are 38 Petroleum-Spirit stores at Herne Bay, which have to be licensed annually under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928. Fees amounting to £29. 10. 0d were received in December for the renewal of annual licences. The number includes three new stores licensed in 1959 for the first time.

The Public Health Inspector is responsible, as Petroleum Officer, for supervising new petroleum storage installations including the testing of tanks. He is also responsible for ensuring compliance with annual licensing conditions.

Important new Regulations came into operation on 1st July, 1957. These are intended to ensure that all possible safety precautions are taken at petroleum-spirit stores when delivery is made from a tank wagon to a storage tank upon the premises.

A model code has been prepared, for the guidance of local authorities, in the licensing of petroleum-spirit stores. Its preparation followed a recommendation made in a report upon the explosion at Bristol.

It is suggested in the Model Code that Licensing Authorities should require underground tanks to be tested after they have been installed 20 years, and at regular intervals thereafter. This recommendation is carried out, for my records indicate the age of most tanks.

Additional petrol storage capacity was provided at four garages as follows :-

1	-	600 gallon tank.
1	-	1,000 " "
1	-	2 x 1,000 gallon tanks.
1	-	2,000 gallon tank.

At other garages new electric pumps have been installed, flame proofed, as required in the Regulations, and equipped with limiting devices.

There are now very few commercial petrol filling stations at Herne Bay which have not been equipped with modern pumps. These are obligatory by 1960.

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